

**MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS**

3. (amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in [either of claims 1 or 2] claim 1, wherein hydroxyethyl methacrylate is employed as hydroxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl (meth)acrylate.

4. (amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formula (A) are selected from the group of methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, or mixtures thereof.

5. (amended) A water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in [any of claims 1 or 4] claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formula (B) are selected from the group of C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-vinyl esters.

6. (amended) A process for preparing water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymers as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 by free-radical polymerization in an aqueous or nonaqueous but water-miscible solvent or in mixed nonaqueous/aqueous solvents.

8. (amended) A pharmaceutical dosage form comprising at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 as coating agent, binder and/or film-forming excipient.

9. (amended) The use of water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymers as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 as coating agent, binder and/or [film/forming] film-forming excipient in pharmaceutical dosage forms.

## REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to place them in better form for U.S. practice. Favorable action on the application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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